



Rebuilding the Gulf Coast is a high priority for the President and our Nation. As such, the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is trying to identify minority business enterprises that have \$5 million or more already invested in the region, or those that have the ability to invest at least \$5 million in the region.

MBDA respectfully urges you to consider applying to participate in the upcoming “Gulf Coast Business Investment Mission” hosted by U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez and the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding, Donald Powell. This mission is scheduled for May 4-5, 2006, and will include stops in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Biloxi, Mississippi. The purpose of this mission is to highlight investment opportunities in the Gulf Coast, including the incentives in the recently enacted Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005.

The target industry sectors include agricultural processing, chemicals, construction, energy, fisheries, petrochemicals, shipbuilding, real estate and financing, capital financing, transportation, manufacturing, retail, travel and tourism. In each city, participants will meet with key federal, state and local officials and other local decision makers to discuss the business climate and investment opportunities in the Gulf Coast.

Applications should be submitted to the Department of Commerce’s Office of Business Liaison by close of business Tuesday, April 11, 2006. The participation fee for this mission is approximately \$1,000 per company. In addition, expenses for travel to and from the Gulf Coast region, lodging and incidentals will be the responsibility of each mission participant.

More information about the selection process and the mission can be obtained by visiting www.gulfcoastopportunity.gov or by calling Jennifer Andberg at 202-482-1360 or by contacting obl@doc.gov.

Regards,

Ronald N. Langston
National Director